STAY HOME
STAY SAFE
HOTEL SIDDHARTA
NAZARABAD, MYSURU PH: 2522999

STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 43 No. 87 Pages: 6 Rs. 2.00
Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 23 Fax: 2496530
E-mail: voice@starofmysore.com
ad@starofmysore.com

MYSURU Thursday 21st May 2020
City Offices: K.R. Circle Ph: 2431774
Devaraja Urs Road Ph: 2428695
Visit: www.starofmysore.com

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

Calibrated flights to Mysuru likely from May 25

The 'Life is a Journey' statuary depicting and celebrating the spirit of travel installed at City Railway Station portico now sports face masks underlining the mandatory precautions to be taken while travelling in COVID times.

- MP Pratap Simha seeks public opinion on re-starting flight operations
- Partial resumption of intra-State train services from tomorrow
- Rail bookings through IRCTC portal only & tickets will not be sold at Railway Station

Mysuru, May 21 (RK&BCT)- With the Government of India announcing that domestic flights and civil aviation operations will resume from May 25 in a calibrated manner with stringent Special Operating Procedures (SOPs) for passenger movement, activities have picked up at Mysore Airport in Mandakalli.

"Domestic civil aviation operations will recommence in a calibrated manner from May 25. All airports and air carriers are being informed to be ready for operations. SOPs for passenger movement also being separately issued by the Ministry," tweeted Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

The announcement came amid the fourth phase of the lockdown which was imposed by the Government in order to combat the Novel Coronavirus outbreak in the country. Commercial flight operations have been suspended since Mar. 25 when the Government first imposed the lockdown.

Before the resumption of flight services, Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha has asked public opinion on the topic. In a Facebook live message last night and addressing reporters this morning, the MP said that there were 9 flights to and fro Mysuru to destinations like Chennai, Kochi, Hyderabad, Belagavi, Goa and Kalaburagi operated by Indigo, Alliance Air and TruJet.

"Alliance Air operates maximum flights and it has sought green signal to operate flights. The decision will be based on public opinion. If the people are ready to fly, we too are ready to start operations," Simha said and added that people can air their opinions on his Facebook page and other social media platforms. Till this afternoon, more than 500 people have aired their opinions. At the Mysore Airport, preparations for the air traffic is on in full swing with cleaning and de-weeding operations. "The decision to operate flights to and fro Mysuru has been conveyed to all the air operators and we are awaiting confirmation from them. If the operators are willing, we are ready to provide all facilities as before," Mysore Airport Director R. Manjunath told *Star of Mysore*.

Partial train services from tomorrow: The South Western Railway (SWR) is set to partially resume intra-State services as the Railway Board gave its nod to run two trains in Karnataka from May 22 (tomorrow).

(See TRAINS on page 6)

Evaluation of II PU answer scripts begins

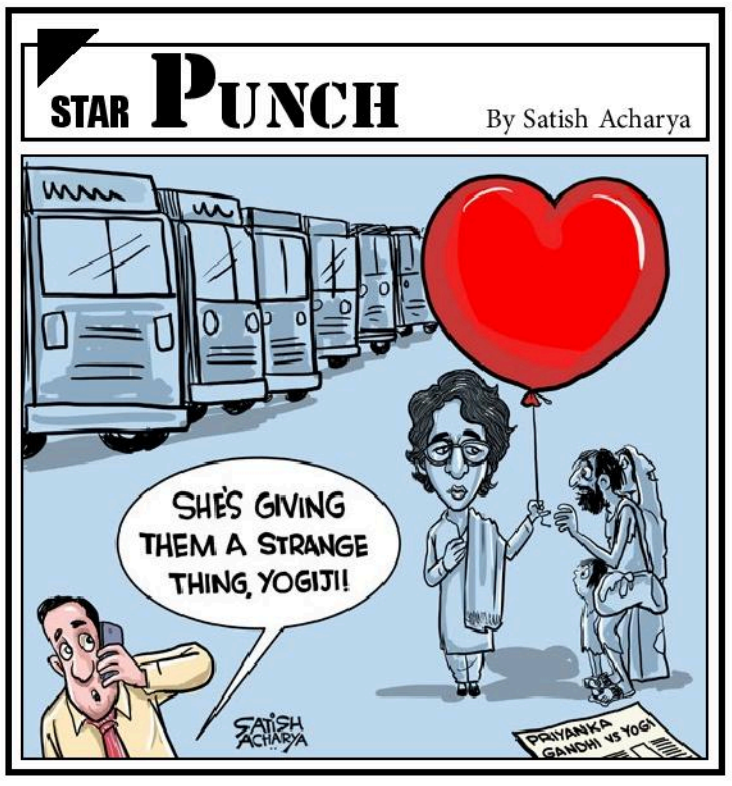
- First time at District Head Quarters due to lockdown-induced travel restrictions
- Department Director Kanagavalli to hold video-conference with DDPUEs

Mysuru, May 21 (RK&DM)- After a delay of two months due to COVID-19 induced lockdown and with the English paper exam remaining pending, the evaluation of II PUC (2019-20) answer scripts began across the State from today, much to the relief of students.

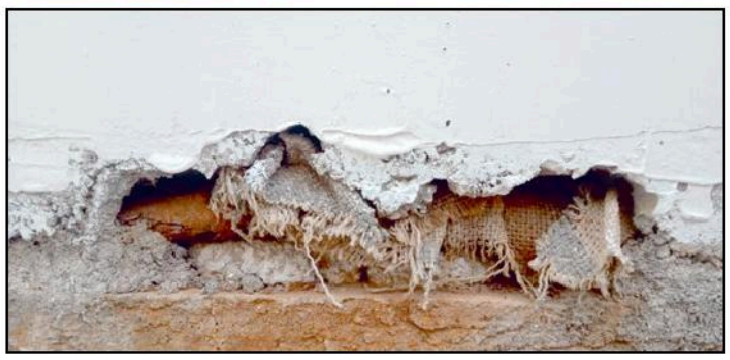
Following the announcement of the lockdown, the Department of Pre-University Education had postponed the English exam that was earlier scheduled for Mar.23 and had also put off evaluation of answer scripts.

But now, the Department has announced that the pending English exam will be held on June 18.

(See PU on page 6)



Kodagu flood victims fuss over shoddy rehab house works



- Many houses have slant, hollow and cracked walls, roots protrude from foundations
- 463 houses built at Jamboor and Madenadu to be handed over on May 29 by CM Yediyurappa

Mysuru, May 21 (Akshay & BCT)- This monsoon, the 2018 flood and landslide victims of Kodagu whose houses were washed away leaving hundreds of them homeless were hoping to start a new life as the title deeds and keys of about 463 new houses constructed by the State Government at Jamboor and Madenadu are scheduled to be handed over to them. But their hopes too are likely to be washed away as there are umpteen construction defects, threatening the very safety of occupants this monsoon.

Holes are gaping in the house foundations, giant roots of the trees that existed earlier are protruding from the foundations, uneven and hollow walls, bent doors and windows, cracked bases are some of the characteristics of many houses and shockingly some of the houses have slant walls and RCC sloppy roofs. Though the walls have been freshly painted to look strong and sturdy, its insides are full of mud. Contractors have used maximum mud along with bricks and very less cement.

These houses will be handed over to the flood victims on May 29 by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and a gala event is being organised at Jamboor near Madapura for this. But local villagers and the flood victims who have personally seen and experienced the rain and landslide havoc unleashed by nature in 2018 and 2019 say that many of the houses will not withstand the nature's fury if it rains this year like the last two years.

District Minister to be apprised

The construction faults were highlighted by "Namma Kodagu" team and according to its President Naushad, the issue has been brought to the notice of Kodagu Deputy Commissioner Annies Kanmani Joy and Kodagu District Minister V. Somanna is likely to visit the houses tomorrow to oversee preparations for the May 29 event. "We will draw the attention of the Minister and will appeal him to set right the defects as lives are at stake. If the repair works are not initiated, we will boycott the CM's event and refuse to take possession of the houses," said B.K. Gandhi, President of Jamboor Santhrasthara Sangha.

The Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited constructed the houses on the sites developed on Government land and each house has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 9.85 lakh. Each house is built on 30X40 sq. ft dimension and has two bedrooms, a hall and a kitchen. This is the first major allotment of identical-looking houses in a row to the victims of floods and landslips since the tragedy struck them two years ago. Over 35 houses have already been handed over to the victims at Karnangeri near Madikeri in June last year.

House project statistics

Over 840 people lost their homes in the 2018 fury and for them, the then H.D. Kumaraswamy Government initiated the house construction project. Houses are ready for 463 victims at Jamboor (383) and Madenadu (80). Of them, keys and title deeds will be handed over by Yediyurappa on May 29 to 463 families and of them 80 families can move to Madenadu houses immediately. In Jamboor, 140 families can move in immediately with 243 houses pending with some minor works like plumbing and electricity.

As 35 houses have already been built and handed over at Karnangeri, still, 342 houses are pending and of this, 200 houses are being built by the Infosys Foundation and the rest of the 142 houses will have to be built by the Government in the second phase of the project.

There are good houses too

Not all houses that have been built have faults. The first 80 to 100 houses that were built when the project was launched are in perfect condition and those are facing the road. Some of the identical row houses that have been built subsequently behind the first and second rows are in bad shape. But the houses that are being built by Infosys Foundation are pretty strong and have sturdy walls and stone foundation, say villagers.

Villagers and flood victims say that when the project was launched there were many VVIP visits and as a result, the construction quality was good. Subsequently, the quality deteriorated with lack of supervision and monitoring. Former Kodagu Deputy Commissioner P.I. Sreevidya had pointed out several loopholes in the construction but she was unceremoniously transferred, said members of Namma Kodagu team.

Will it withstand rains?

"They took two years to build houses and most of the houses have been constructed in a shoddy manner. We do not want such houses and we have waited for two long years and we are ready to wait for some more time. Let the repairs be done and then we can occupy the house," Gandhi said.

P.A. Thangamma, who lost her husband and her house in the nature's fury said, "I have seen the floods and landslides in close quarters and I am sure these houses will not withstand heavy rains," she said.

Narrating the plight of the flood victims, she said that after the floods destroyed over 1,000 houses, the Government promised Rs. 10,000 rent for them to stay in other accommodations. "But the promised rent was paid only for 6 months and later when we asked the District officers, they callously told us that the Government has no money," she said.

1,042 criminal cases registered from Jan. 1 to May 18 in city

Cases include 9 murders, 9 extortions and 15 chain-snatchings

Mysuru, May 21 (RK&KS)- There has been a total of 1,042 criminal cases including nine murders, nine extortions, 156 robberies and 15 chain-snatching cases registered from Jan. 1 to May 18, 2020 at various Police Stations in city.

According to the statistics by the City Crime Record Bureau (CCRB), a total of nine murder cases including two in March, one in April and three till May 18 have been registered. In the same period, 24 attempt to murder, two dacoity, nine extortion, 15 chain-snatching and 156 house burglaries have taken place. Among the 1,042 criminal cases registered are 51 cheating cases, 22 kidnapping, one rape, 15 cases under POCSO Act, eight under SC-ST Act, 41 gambling and nine Excise cases.

From March 2020 till date, there has been six murder cases, 11 attempt to murder, one dacoity, seven gold chain-snatching, 13 house burglaries, 13 cheating, seven kidnapping, two cases under POCSO Act and seven dowry harassment cases registered.

VOICE OF THE READER

An appeal to private educational institutions

Sir,

All the private educational institutions have closed almost from 13.3.2020. Many schools could not complete their exams as per schedule. It's two-and-a-half months since the schools are closed.

Now all the private schools are gearing up opening for the next academic year. I have a sincere appeal, rather suggestion for the private educational institutions. Many of them have already collected fees for the month of April 2020 (the month which was completely closed). I request all the private educational institutions to please start collecting fees from July 2020 by forgoing fees for June (as an adjustment for the fees already collected for April 2020).

This will go a long way in the welfare and difficulties being faced by many parents. The said private educational institutions may give up at least once their regular practice of hike in fee structure and continue last year's fee amount and charge only for eleven months for this year, without giving any excuses whatsoever in the matter.

Hope my Appeal/Suggestion will be taken in right spirit.

— R. Gnana Prabhu
on e-mail
Aravindanagar
20.5.2020

Singer Nancy Nandita no more

Nancy Nandita

Mysuru, May 21- Well-known singer Nancy Nandita (38), daughter of singer late Renukumar, passed away on Tuesday following heart attack at Bengaluru.

A resident of Gandhinagar's Lurdnagar-Karunapura in Mysuru, she had been to Bengaluru to attend a relative's marriage.

She leaves behind her husband Samuel Dev Nesan, daughters Angel Maria, Ann Maria and Ansila Maria and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed this morning at burial grounds on Mahadevapura Road in Mysuru.

MUDA restarts tax collection

People line up at MUDA this morning to remit taxes.

Mysuru, May 21 (RK&DM)- The Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), which had suspended collection of taxes following the COVID-19 lockdown in March, has restarted collection of taxes from members of the public coming under its jurisdiction.

MUDA has opened a counter at Vijaya Bank located in its premises on JLB road to enable the public to remit site, building and other taxes that are due.

The staff at all the MUDA's six Zonal Offices will give a slip to the tax- payers mentioning the amount after calculating it based on the previous year's tax payment challan. The public, after getting the slip, have to produce it at Spandana Counter in the MUDA's main office on JLB Road, where the staff will issue challans following which the tax-payers are required to pay the challan amount at the Bank counter and get an acknowledgement. In the past, people used to remit taxes usually in the months of March and April every year. But due to the closure of office on account of COVID lockdown, people could not remit their taxes. Now after a gap of two months, MUDA has resumed collection of taxes and subsequently people are queuing up in front of the Vijaya Bank counter to pay their taxes due to MUDA, while maintaining social distancing norms.

Meanwhile, MUDA authorities said that efforts are underway for making tax payment online just as the MCC. The software for the purpose is being developed and it is hoped that tax payment will go online soon, they added.

Tirumala Temple to sell laddus at 50% discount

Rs.1.97 crore e-Hundi collection in April 2020

Tirupati, May 21 (Agencies)- With uncertainty continuing as to when the darshan will resume, Sri Venkateswara Temple authorities yesterday decided to sell 'Tirupati laddu Prasadam' or the sacred offering among devotees at 50 percent discount across Andhra Pradesh and in the State capitals of neighbouring States. The laddu, weighing 175 gm, will be sold for Rs.25, against its actual price of Rs.50 in normal days.

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), which manages the affairs of the world's richest Hindu temple, took the decision in view of the continuing uncertainty over resumption of darshan.

It has been two months since darshan was stopped for the devotees at the hill shrine in view of the lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19.

TTD Trust Board Chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy said that the laddu prasadam will be made available shortly at all TTD Kalyana Mandapams and information centres present in all the 13 district headquarters in Andhra Pradesh along with Hyderabad, Chennai and Bengaluru. He said resuming of *Srivari darshan* to devotees depends on the Central Govt.'s decision to lift the lockdown. "We have been receiving e-mails and phones on when we would resume *darshan*. But it all depends on the Government's decision of lifting lockdown," he said.

Reddy said in spite of the lockdown restrictions, the devotees were generously contributing through e-Hundi and thus, expressing their immense devotion.

During April 2020, the e-Hundi collection stood at Rs.1.97 crore, an increase of Rs.18 lakh over the contribution made by devotees electronically during the same month last year.

Reddy said responding to devotees' generous contributions to e-Hundi, TTD decided to resume laddu prasadam sale and offer 50 percent discount.

Devotees requiring bulk quantity shall have to contact the Srivari Temple Deputy EO on Mob: 98495-75952 and Potu Peishkar on Mob: 97010-92777 for their additional requirement whose delivery would be made at the TTD centres. The commencement of laddu sale by TTD will be decided in two or three days.

State allows sports activities to resume barring swimming, kabaddi and boxing

Mysuru, May 21 (MTY&BNR)- The State Government has now allowed sports activities barring swimming, kabaddi and boxing to resume in the State without spectators. Sports Minister C.T. Ravi said that the Government will take a decision on opening gyms and swimming pools after June 1. Sports Clubs are required to follow the safety guidelines including thermal screening, use of sanitisers and social distancing norms. Restaurant and lodging in such clubs should, however, remain shut.

Chamundi Vihar Stadium open

Speaking to *SOM* this morning, K. Suresh, Assistant Director, District Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, said that the announcement has been made only through media and the Government has not sent any official notification or circular yet. However, the Department was making arrangements in this direction, he added.

Suresh

"At Chamundi Vihar Stadium, public are now allowed to take a stroll between 7 am and 10 am in the morning and 4 pm and 5.30 pm in the evening with some mandatory safety measures. Spitting is prohibited and people should use public toilets, if required. Children below 10 years of age and elders above 50 years of age are banned. Everyone must compulsorily use masks and sanitisers and follow social distancing," said Suresh.

Talking about the practice for sportspersons, he said: "Those practicing any sports regularly should register themselves at the Department Office with necessary documents and also compulsorily provide Aadhaar Card number. Sports Associations and Organisations can also register themselves and can use the indoor and outdoor facility on rental basis by following the safety measures." As it was announced only yesterday, so far nobody have registered, he added.

Kukkarahalli Lake

Walkers' paradise, Kukkarahalli Lake premises, which was also closed following the lockdown, has now been kept open for public who are asked to compulsorily follow the precautionary measures that include wearing of masks, using sanitisers and maintaining social distance.

District Cong. donates Rs. 16.51 lakh

Mysuru, May 21 (RKB&DM)- Coming to the help of the poor and the needy during the COVID-19 lockdown, the Mysuru District Congress donated Rs.16.51 lakh collected by it to the KPCC Disaster Fund.

A Congress delegation comprising former MP R. Dhruvanarayan, MLA Dr. Yathindra Siddharamaiah, MLC R. Dharmasena, former MLA Kalale Keshavamurthy, District Congress President Dr. B.J. Vijaykumar, K.R. Nagar Congress leader D. Ravishankar and others met KPCC President D.K. Shivakumar at Bengaluru on Wednesday and handed over the cheque to him.

Speaking on the occasion, Shivakumar complimented Mysuru District Congress for raising funds and said that the money will be utilised for feeding over 15,000 poor and needy persons for a month.

He also lauded the efforts of the Mysuru Congress in forming Congress Task Force even at the taluk level, setting up of a helpline and starting a COVID-19 War Room.

Decoding Mythology

Dr. Devdutt Pattanaik - Author, Speaker, Illustrator, Mythologist

How 'dharma' manifests in Vedas and Puranas

The word 'dharma' first appears in the Rig Veda; but in a collection of a thousand hymns, the word dharma occurs less than a hundred times, making it not a very key concept. It is related to 'foundation' and 'stability' and 'governance'. Even in the Upanishads, it is not a dominant theme.

The meaning is first explained rather clearly in Shatapatha Brahmana (800 BCE) when the absence of dharma results in matsya nyaya, or fish law, the Hindu version of jungle law, where mighty feed on the meek. This usually happens when we surmise from the verses when there is lack of rain and scarcity, and most importantly, when there is no king (raja) to restrain anarchy (arajakta).

This idea is further explained in the mythological story of Manu saving the 'small fish from the big fish' and later the 'big fish' saving Manu from the flood. Dharma thus clearly means when the mighty care for the meek. In a feudal system, it means the rich minority taking care of the poor majority. In a democracy it means, where the majority protect the minority. This story of the fish being rescued resurfaces 1,200 years later in the Vishnu Purana (400 CE): the small fish becomes the first avatar of Vishnu, narratively conveying the idea of dharma.

The idea of dharma manifests in the Puranas too. In Brahma Purana, we have the story of Brahma's sons, Devas and Asuras who are constantly fighting. Swarga is the realm of Devas, full of wealth and pleasure, ruled by Indra. But there is no peace as it is constantly under siege by Asuras, who live in Patala (under the ground), and are convinced they have been tricked of their share of wealth. The battle of Devas and Asuras is unending. Indra is constantly replaced by more capable Indras, and Asuras are constantly reborn with more smart boons that Devas have to outsmart.

This is contrasted with Mount Kailas, abode of Shiva, in the Shiva Purana, where there is always peace, as no one is hungry for anything: Shakti's tiger does not chase Shiva's bull who does not complain about the absence of grass on the icy mountain top. Kartikeya's peacock does not chase Shiva's snake which does not chase Ganesha's rat who does not eat Ganesh's sweets. So if in Swarga, the hunger of Devas is indulged and the hunger of Asuras remains unsatisfied, in Kailasa there is no hunger.

In Vaikuntha, the abode of Vishnu in Vishnu Purana, Vishnu is not hungry, but he seeks to satisfy the hunger of humanity by descending on earth in various forms (avatars) to teach humans dharma, first as a fish, and finally as an invader/revolutionary.

This brings us to Ramayana, which is essentially a part of Vishnu Purana, as it retells the story of Vishnu's avatar Ram who lived in the Treta Yuga, so within the limits of time (kala). Here, we are told marriage is a way to establish dharma, ensure the rights of husband and wife. But neither Surpanakha nor Ravana respect marriage laws and wish to satisfy their hunger (desire being a more refined word) at any cost. They think of themselves and not others. The royal siblings misuse their power to abuse the powerless exiled prince and his wife. Mahabharata, the other great epic, is also a part of Vishnu Purana, as it retells the story of Vishnu's avatar Krishna who lived in the Dwapara Yuga, so within the limits of time (kala). Here the complexity of legal system is revealed. Who is the heir? Must the eldest be chosen over the youngest (Dhritarashtra over Pandu), the abled over the disabled (Shantanu over Devapi), the bloodline (Kauravas) or the adopted (Pandavas)? It comes down to does the mighty (hundred brothers with eleven armies) willing to co-exist with the meek (five brothers with seven armies) or will they not share 'a needlepoint of land?'

The idea that a king overturns matsya nyaya to establish dharma and prevent arajakta is found in the royal inscription that established the Pala kings of Bengal in 750 CE. Incidentally, Pala kings patronised Buddhism indicating the concept of 'king overturning jungle law' was an Indian idea, not just a Hindu one. The consistency in meaning from Vedas through Puranas to the epics to Buddhist lore is remarkable.

[devdutt@devdutt.com

Seafarers: The Unsung Heroes

"Life's roughest storms prove the strength of our anchors"

By Nivedita Achappa

File photo of Nivedita with her husband Amit Achappa in one of the ships.

For decades our seafarers are the unsung heroes of the maritime. In times of need, they are selfless and ready to help. Everyone everywhere relies on the shipping industry for the goods and commodities we all need and want. But it's a tough and a demanding job which sometimes can put pressure on the seafarers' mental health.

A seafarer's job can be rewarding and fulfilling but it can also have its more difficult moments. Many different factors can affect the quality of life at sea. They include shore leave, the threat of abandonment, prompt payment of wages, the prospect of criminalisation and even simple things like internet access and provision of gym facilities on board ship.

The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and its global network of National Member Associations and the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) and its 215 Seafarers Unions call upon seafarers across the world to sound their ship's horns when in port at 12.00 local time on International Workers Day on May 1. The International Workers Day or May Day or Labour Day is recognised in many countries around the world to celebrate and acknowledge the contribution made by workers across the world.

The ICS and ITF are encouraging the gesture of solidarity to recognise over 1.6 million seafarers across the world. Our seafarers are the true unsung heroes of the global trade and we must not forget the contribution that they are making everyday to keep our countries supplied with goods that we need. They are all heroes at sea.

ITF welcomes this initiative to call upon seafarers to sound their ships horns in a global expression of solidarity but also importantly to also ensure that the spotlight remains on how critical seafarers are to ensure that the essential goods continue to be transported around the world during this crisis to continue keeping supply chains moving in these unprecedented times.

At sea, one realises 'How little a person needs, not how much!' The outbreak of COVID-19 has brought fear and anxiety to the seafarers and their families around the world. They do their job day in and day out staying away from their homes, families and friends. Let's all show solidarity with the seafarers (men and women) who are sailing in the high seas worldwide and who really are the backbone of global trade and economy.

Seafarers are the unseen and unsung heroes who are essential in ensuring that the supply chain of food, medicines, fuel, energy and other goods keep operating.

Career in the high seas requires people to be mentally strong and physically tough. They need to be able to adapt to different environments and work cultures. They should be willing to take on responsibility, have love for adventure and challenges and have a desire to strive for higher positions. They should be able to work as well as study for examinations in between. They need to be intelligent, intuitive, willing to work in a team, be flexible, be patient, have a liking for solitude, are willing to live away from family and loved ones for long stretches of time.

Also a special mention to the many wives and families of seafarers, who are motivating them and staying positive during this pandemic, they deserve our appreciation. Their role is more often understood than told.

Cheers to the brave men, who choose careers at sea and the women in their lives who match them in every possible way!

Let's show support and solidarity with seafarers and pray for their early return home. They too are the frontline workforce during this global pandemic — though unseen and unsung.

[Nivedita Achappa (Bolakaranda) is the wife of Chief Marine Engineer Amit Achappa (Natolanda), Anglo Eastern Ship Management]

COVID-19: Health Department issues guidelines on cleaning vehicles

Mysuru, May 21 (SPN&KS)- The Office of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, in a bid to prevent the spread of COVID, has issued 14 guidelines on sanitising vehicles which are ferrying the sick to hospitals.

As COVID-19 (Coronavirus) would be alive for 72 hours on metals, glass, plastic materials etc., vehicles should be washed with detergent specified by the Health Department and ambulances and other vehicles entering and exiting Containment Zones ferrying migrants and labourers should be cleaned in the same way besides spraying disinfectant daily.

Wearing of gloves while cleaning the vehicles is mandatory and the person involved in the cleaning process should compulsorily take a hot water bath. The clothes worn by the cleaning staff should be soaked in soap water for at least 30 minutes before washing and the owners of vehicles in Containment Zones should compulsorily wash their vehicles with soap water, according to the guidelines.

K.S. Eshwarappa slams Opposition for calling PM's relief package bogus

Meets Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister K.S. Eshwarappa seen in conversation with Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji during his visit to Suttur Mutt at the foot of Chamundi Hill this morning.

Mysuru, May 21 (PM&KS)- Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister K.S. Eshwarappa slammed the Opposition for calling PM Modi's relief package as bogus.

He was addressing the media after seeking the blessings of Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji at Suttur Mutt here. The Minister arrived in city as part of his tour of the district this morning.

Eshwarappa said that those calling the relief package as bogus are unworthy of it and added that it is the job of the Opposition to oppose everything.

Former CM Siddharamaiah and KPCC President D.K. Shivakumar led a protest in front of Mahatma Gandhi statue at Vidhana Soudha to oppose the APMC Amendment Act and appointments to Gram Panchayats. These leaders, who give long speeches on the Constitution, had not taken permission for the protest, he said pointing out that the Opposition Party is there just to criticise and do nothing concrete.

He said the appointments to Gram Panchayats was put before the Cabinet and was announced only after the approval.

Eshwarappa said that the country was fighting COVID-19 successfully under the leadership of PM Modi which has been appreciated across the globe and even the State is battling Coronavirus successfully. People know this and there is no need for a certificate from Siddharamaiah and Shivakumar, he added.

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha, District BJP President Mahendra and others accompanied the Minister.

'Develop Lakes before Monsoon'

- RDPR Minister inspects Lakes, holds meeting at ZP Hall in city
- Out of 136 Lakes in Mysuru taluk, only 49 Lakes developed

Mysuru, May 21 (RKB&KS)- "Give more importance to Lakes. Identify Lakes without water in the district and take steps to develop them before the onset monsoon," said Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister K.S. Eshwarappa.

He was addressing a meeting of RDPR Department officials at the Zilla Panchayat (ZP) meeting hall after inspecting various Lakes in the district this morning.

The Minister also collected information about the number of Lakes in the district, number of Lake development works taken up and the number of works completed besides asking the officials to complete the pending works at the earliest.

Pointing out that were 136 Lakes in Mysuru taluk, Eshwarappa asked Mysuru Taluk Executive Officer (EO) Krishna Kumar why only 49 Lake development works were taken up.

The Minister told the officials to also give importance to rain water pits to rejuvenate underground water and asked them

to create five pits in each village from May 19 to June 19, which would help the farmers in future.

Eshwarappa instructed the Social Forestry Officer to plan and plant saplings around the pits to sustain rain water.

MP Pratap Simha raised the topic of garbage being dumped on the sides of Outer Ring Road to which Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abhiram G. Sankar asked the ZP and MCC officials to take steps and decide to which dumping yard the garbage has to be dumped scientifically.

District Minister S.T. Somashekar, MLAs G.T. Devegowda, S.A. Ramdas, L. Nagendra, Niranjan Kumar and Ashwin Kumar, MLC R. Dharmasena, ZP CEO Prashanth Kumar Mishra and others were present at the meeting.

Freak mishap: Baby boy dies after being hit by father's vehicle

Chamarajanagar, May 21 (SS&KS)- In a freak mishap, a baby boy who had sustained serious injuries after he was hit by Tata Sumo vehicle, which his father was reversing, has succumbed to injuries at a hospital on Tuesday.

The deceased baby boy is Rohit (one year and 10 months), son of Sathyaraj and Shakthivelu couple of Bommanahalli village in the taluk. Sathyaraj, who had parked his vehicle in a shed, went to to take his vehicle on Tuesday evening. Little did he know that his son had followed him and was standing behind the vehicle. Sathyaraj started the vehicle and began to take it in the reverse direction when it hit his son Rohit.

Rohit, who sustained serious injuries was rushed to a hospital in Talawadi, where he succumbed to injuries.

Ramasamudra Rural Police, who have registered a case, are investigating.

City Engineering grad's tryst with Snakes

Rescues mother Russell's Viper along with 50 snakelets at Ranganakoppal near Bilikere

Mysuru, May 21 (KS)- Be it a Spectacled Cobra, Rat Snake, Krait, Viper etc., the tryst with birds and snakes of a Mechanical Engineering graduate from city, rushes him to the spot to rescue them with the recent rescue of a mother Russell's Viper along with her 50 snakelets (baby snakes) at Ranganakoppal near Bilikere on Hunsur road.

The mother Viper and her babies were released into their natural habitat in the presence of two Forest Department staff under instructions from Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) Dr. K.C. Prashanth Kumar.

Meet Mohammed Umar Shariff, a Mechanical Engineering graduate from ATME College and a resident of Shivaji Road in N.R. Mohalla here. His first rescue was a Rat Snake eight years ago and the second was a Checkered Keelback. From then on there was no turning back and Umar claimed to have rescued about 4,500 snakes so far but has kept record of 598 rescues.

He said that his love for wildlife conservation made him a snake rescuer and added that he used to see many snake rescues and sometimes snakes used to disappear before the rescuer arrived, causing tension among the residents which also prompted him to rescue snakes.

He said "Snakes have been a part of my life ever since childhood. I actually don't know how I fell in love with them. As a child I had seen people brutally killing snakes. That instilled sympathy for the creature in my mind." Stating that snakes were beautiful creatures which are misunderstood, Umar said that snakes are killed due to fear and myths surrounding them.

He said that his aim is to mitigate human-snake conflict, avoid unnecessary deaths and foil the plans of self-styled faith-healers' claims of "curing" people bitten by snakes that were not even venomous. "Everytime I rescue a snake, I inform the crowd about the snake, whether it is venomous or non-venomous, its behaviour and habitat. In this way I am helping the people identify the snake, so that they could inform any snake rescuer which specie of snake needs to be rescued," he said.

Partial train services from tomorrow

District Minister S.T. Somashekar, MP Pratap Simha, MLA L. Nagendra, DRM Aparna Garg and other senior officers of Mysuru Division inspecting Mysuru Railway Station this morning.

(Continued from page 1)

The two special trains are the Bengaluru - Hubballi - Belagavi and Mysuru - Bengaluru Special Express, according to an order issued by the SWR.

These will be the first intra-State trains to be run by the Railways since it suspended passenger services due to the lockdown. The bookings for these trains will be online through the IRCTC portal only and tickets will not be sold at Railway Station.

"Intra-State special trains started in Karnataka. Bengaluru - Belagavi and Bengaluru - Mysuru Expresses to begin with 100 percent. Passengers have to book the tickets online. These trains will help the people who were stranded during the lockdown," Minister of State for Railways Suresh Angadi tweeted.

Both the trains will be operated as fully reserved trains and strict maintenance of social distancing norms, the Board said. All passengers will have to follow the guidelines issued by Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. In view of the partial resumption of passenger train service from Mysuru, District Minister S.T. Somashekar, MP Pratap Simha along with Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Aparna Garg and other senior officers of Mysuru Division inspected Mysuru Railway Station this morning to take stock of the efficacy of precautionary steps taken to maintain social distancing norms and follow other protocols and guidelines.

DRM told *SOM* that the Mysuru-Bengaluru Express will be a MEMU (Mainline Electric Multiple Unit) train with 14 chair cars that can carry 104 passengers in one coach. The City Railway Station will have one entry and one exit and all the guidelines will strictly be followed. The two trains will run on all six days except Sundays, she added.

Train details: Train No. 06503 / 06504 KSR Bengaluru - Mysuru - KSR Bengaluru Special (six days in week): Train No. 06503 KSR Bengaluru - Mysuru Special will depart from KSR Bengaluru at 9.20 am and arrive Mysuru at 12:45 pm on all days except Sunday. The train will have stoppages at Kengeri, Ramanagara, Maddur, Mandya, Pandavapura and Naganahalli. In the return direction Train No. 06504 will depart from Mysuru at 1.46 pm and arrive KSR Bengaluru at 4 pm.

The Bengaluru-Belagavi service would depart Bengaluru at 8 am on every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, reach Hubballi at 3.25 pm and Belagavi at 4.30 pm.

In its return journey, it would leave Belagavi at 8 am on every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, reach Hubballi at 10.50 am to reach Bengaluru at 4.30 pm. It would have stops at Yeshwanthpur, Tumakuru, Arasikere, Birur, Chikkajajur, Davanagere, Harihar, Ranebennur, Haveri, Hubballi and Dharwad.

Evaluation of II PU answer scripts

(Continued from page 1)

On directions from the Department Director M. Kanagavalli, the evaluation of answer scripts commenced simultaneously at all district headquarters in the State this morning.

In Mysuru, the evaluation of Economics paper is taking place at 9 centres across the city ---- Sarada Vilas College in Krishnamurthypuram, St. Philomena's College in Bannimantap, Maharaja Junior College on JLB Road, Mahajana College in Jayalakshmipuram, Marimallappa College on Ramavilas Road, Maharani's PU College on N.S. Road, Vidyavardhaka College on Seshadri Iyer Road, Vijaya Vittala College in Saraswathipuram and Gopalaswamy PU College at Nanjumalige.

Trial and Error Basis: Deputy Director of Pre-University Education (DDPUE), Mysuru, G.R. Geetha told 'Star of Mysore' that the evaluation of Economics answer scripts began in the city this morning on a Trial and Error Basis, as this is the first time that the evaluation was taking place at all District Head Quarters of the State, due to the lockdown induced travel restrictions.

Maintaining that the Trial and Error basis adopted today was only meant for a thorough understanding of the new system, she said that earlier the evaluation used to take place at only four or five centres in the State. But due to the pandemic, travel and other logistic difficulties, the Department had to conduct evaluation at all district headquarters. From tomorrow, the evaluation of all subjects will take place. All the answer paper bundles have been coded and decoded before dispatch to the centres, Geetha said and added that she visited all the nine evaluation centres in the city.

She further said that an evaluator is allowed to evaluate a maximum of 124 answer scripts per day. Continuing, the DDPUE said that the Department Director Kanagavalli will be holding a video-conference with all DDPUEs and evaluation centre heads and give further directions on the evaluation of answer scripts and holding of pending II PUC English exam.

Automen seek relaxation in compensation conditions

Mysuru, May 21 (PM&DM)- A fortnight after Chief Minister B.S.Yediyurappa announced a Rs.1,610 crore relief package for the distressed working class during COVID-19 lockdown, auto drivers of the city have demanded relaxation in conditions set by the Government for getting Rs.5,000 one-time compensation under the package.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Mysuru Autorickshaw Drivers Association President M. Mahadevaswamy said that as per the Government's criteria, only auto owners who have a valid permit, Fitness Certificate and Driving Licence alone are eligible for getting the Rs.5,000 compensation.

But this criteria is disadvantageous to several beneficiaries, as many auto drivers do not own autos and only run them on hire. As such the Government should consider their plight and relax the conditions, thus enabling auto drivers who only have DL to get the compensation.

Also, the other conditions pertain to validity of documents such as permit and FC as on Mar.24. But many owners have not renewed them after lapse due to various factors such as time and financial constraints. The Government should also take note of this and remove the validity clause from the set of conditions, he said and urged the Government to eliminate the hurdles in 'Seva Sindhu' App, through which the auto drivers are required to apply for compensation.

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	5,548
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	4,828
Persons isolated in home for 14 days (Inter-State travellers)	:	719
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	2
Total samples tested	:	6,794
Samples found negative	:	6,703
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	92
Persons cured / discharged	:	90
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	201
Persons cured / discharged	:	25
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	1,605
Persons cured / discharged	:	571
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	41
Total active cases in India	:	63,624
Persons cured / discharged	:	45,299
Death toll so far in India	:	3,435

(Note: Mysuru figures as on May 20. Media bulletin for May 21 not available)

Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520/2496521/2496523/ 2496526/2496527/2496528 Fax: 0821-2496525, 2496530. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.